

new model for use in merger analysis, how should it be tested to ensure that the design criteria have been met?

How should a model and associated databases be maintained and updated? What process should be followed to identify needed modifications to the model and create new versions of the computer code? Should a fixed set of data inputs be identified, in order to avoid this potential difficulty and provide consistent a starting point for analysis (assuming applicants can file additional data for further analyses if they choose)? As an alternative, should applicants be permitted to substitute the most recent data from the same sources even if these data have not previously tested in the model? Or should a standard set of model inputs be maintained and updated as a group? If a standard set of inputs is maintained, should Commission staff be directly responsible for the maintenance of these data or can this responsibility be carried out by third parties?

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5491-2]

### Environmental Impact Statements and Regulations; Availability of EPA Comments

Availability of EPA comments prepared April 06, 1998 Through April 10, 1998 pursuant to the Environmental Review Process (ERP), under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act as amended. Requests for copies of EPA comments can be directed to the OFFICE OF FEDERAL ACTIVITIES AT (202) 564-7167.

An explanation of the ratings assigned to draft environmental impact statements (EISs) was published in FR dated April 11, 1998 (62 FR 16154).

#### Draft EISs

ERP No. D-AFS-L67036-OR Rating EO2, Nicore Mining Project, Implementation, Plan-of-Operations, Mining of Four Sites, Road Construction, Reconstruction, Hauling and Stockpiling of Ore, Rough and Ready Creek Watershed, Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest, Medford District, Josephine County, OR.

**Summary:** EPA expressed environmental objections based on lack of information or alternatives, the potential cumulative impacts of additional mine patents in the area, a failure to meet the intent of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy in the President's Forest Plan, a lack of a detailed reclamation plan, a lack of a monitoring

plan and potential sediment impacts to Rough and Ready Creek.

ERP No. DR-BLM-K67040-CA Rating EO2, Imperial Project, Open-Pit Precious Metal Mining Operation Utilizing Heap Leach Processes, Plan of Operations, Right-of-Way, Conditional Use Permit, US COE Permit and Reclamation Plan Approvals, El Centro Resource Area, California Area District, Imperial County, CA.

**Summary:** EPA expressed environmental objections based on potential significant environmental degradation to waters of the United States, and requested additional alternatives analyses and data. EPA also expressed serious concerns that the project could interfere with basic rights of Native Americans to practice their religious beliefs, and asked BLM to provide information on its policies, guidelines and standards with respect to this issue.

#### Final EISs

ERP No. F-AFS-J65251-CO Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, Implementation, Land and Resource Management Plan, Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, Larimer and Weld Counties, CO.

**Summary:** EPA review finds the alternative selected in the FEIS to be responsive to the Forests and Grasslands need and to environmental considerations for Plan Implementation.

ERP No. F-AFS-J65276-CO Dome Peak Timber Sale, Timber Harvesting and Road Construction, White River National Forest, Eagle Ranger District, Glenwood Spring, Eagle and Garfield Counties, CO.

**Summary:** EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts.

ERP No. F-COE-G39031-LA Mississippi River—Gulf Outlet (MRGO) New Lock and Connecting Channels Replacement and Construction for Connection to the Mississippi River, Implementation, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, LA.

**Summary:** EPA expressed lack of objections to the recommend plan and have no other comments to offer.

ERP No. F-NPS-K61144-HI Ala Kahakai "Trail By the Sea" National Trail Study, Implementation, Hawaii Island, Hawaii County, HI.

**Summary:** Review of the Final was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

ERP No. FS-NOA-K90025-CA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, Updated Information, To Amend the Designation

Document and Regulations to Allow Jade Collecting in the Sanctuary, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, CA.

**Summary:** Review of the Final EIS was not deemed necessary. No formal comment letter was sent to the preparing agency.

Dated: April 21, 1998.

**William D. Dickerson,**

*Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.*

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-5491-1]

### Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

**Responsible Agency:** Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 OR (202) 564-7153.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements Filed April 13, 1998 Through April 17, 1998 Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 980122, Draft Supplement, COE, DE, Delaware Coast from Cape Henlopen to Fenwick Island Feasibility Study and Bethany Beach and South Bethany Interim Feasibility Study, Additional Information, Storm Damage Reduction and Construct a Protective Berm and Dune, Sussex County, DE, Due: June 08, 1998, Contact: Steve Allen (215) 656-6559.

EIS No. 980128, Draft EIS, BLM, WY, Newcastle Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Updated Information, Evaluates Alternatives for the Use Public and Federal Lands and Resources in Portions of Wyoming, Crook, Niobrara and Weston Counties, WY, Due: July 23, 1998, Contact: Floyd Ewing (307) 746-4453.

EIS No. 980129, Final EIS, FHW, TN, I-40 Reconstruction, I-40/I-240 Directional (Midtown) Interchange to TN-300 Interchange, Funding and Possible COE 404 Permit, Shelby County, TN, Due: May 26, 1998, Contact: James E. Scapellato (615) 736-5394.

EIS No. 980130, Final EIS, AFS, CO, South Quartzite Timber Sale, Timber Harvesting and Road Construction, White River National Forest, Rifle Ranger District, Grizzly Creek Rare II Area, Garfield County, CO, Due: May 26, 1998, Contact: David T. Van Norman (970) 927-5715.

EIS No. 980131, Final EIS, AFS, CA, Emigrant Wilderness Management